OIPE JC104
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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

We Claim:

1. Amended - A gas/liquid contacting apparatus, comprising,

a) an upwardly extending column having an interior comprising, an upper section, a gas/liquid permeable, gas/liquid contacting, intermediate section, and a lower, liquid collecting section,

b) liquid inlet means to, and gas outlet means from, the upper section,

c) liquid outlet means from, and gas inlet means to, the lower section, and

d) an entrained substance depleting, gas distributing assembly in the lower section, the assembly comprising,

i) a gas conveying duct connected to the gas inlet and having an interior that decreases in cross section [from] downstream from the gas inlet, the duct extending around at least a major portion of the lower section, and having entrained substance depleted gas outlets, at spaced positions therealong, from inner, upwardly extending <u>upper</u> wall portions thereof, and entrained substance concentrate gas outlets, at spaced [portions] <u>positions</u> therealong, from inner, downwardly extending lower wall portions thereof, and

ii) for each entrained substance depleted gas outlet, an entrained substance depleted gas deflector for directing